



RAPID INTERVENTION CREWS

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

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AFSC RAPID INTERVENTION CREW DIRECTIVE

RAPID INTERVENTION CREWS DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The AFSC developed the Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) certification directive based on industry standards with the intent to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct high quality training to emergency responders within their organizations. The Alaska Fire Service Training office (now known as the Training and Education Bureau [TEB]) used Alaska specific criteria to develop the original Rapid Intervention Technician (RIT) program with support from multiple subject matter experts. In 2015, the AFSC updated the directive to meet the 2015 edition of the [NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews](#). The purpose of the RIC material is to support fire service organizations and ensure that they are managing fire fighter safety and survival during fire ground operations in a proficient, professional, and uniform manner throughout the State of Alaska.

Certification for RIC levels require that individuals meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) A Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) course specific to the level of certification; *and*
- 2) Successful evaluation of practical job performance requirements (JPR's) specific to the level of certification; *and*
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC Rapid Intervention Crew written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

The AFSC uses the administration of a final examination to evaluate that applicants have successfully met the requisite knowledge and skill requirements within the NFPA standard. Applicants that successfully complete the AFSC Rapid Intervention Crew examination process are eligible for certification. Certification for levels of Rapid Intervention Crew may available through a reciprocity process.

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

The AFSC RIC certification directive follows NFPA 1407. Three levels of certification are available through this directive: 1) Rapid Intervention Crew Technician (RICT); 2) Rapid Intervention Crew Team Leader (RICTL); and 3) Rapid Intervention Team Instructor (RICI). Training for the RIC certification is typically available through locally sponsored courses.

Rapid Intervention Crew Technician (RICT):

A dedicated member of a crew of fire fighters assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.

Rapid Intervention Crew Leader (RICL):

In addition to RICT, the RICL shall have a minimum of Fire Officer I certification and is assigned to lead a crew fire fighters assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.

Rapid Intervention Crew Instructor (RICI):

In addition to RICL, the RICI shall have a minimum of Fire Service Instructor I certification and locally endorsed by the authority having jurisdiction to deliver RIC training. The RICI has the responsibility of the instructor-in-charge to coordinate overall evolutions during RIC training.

The AFSC provides certificates for each level of certification and administers certification examinations for these levels upon completion of an approved course.

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RAPID INTERVENTION CREW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Rapid Intervention Crew Technician (RICT):

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

- a. be at least 18 years of age, *and*;
- b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, *and*;
- c. have a minimum of Hazardous Materials Operations certification (*proof of AFSC certification required*); *and*
- d. have a minimum of Firefighter I certification (*proof of AFSC certification required*)
- e. *successfully complete a AFSC approved Rapid Intervention Crew Technician (RICT) course, *and*;
- f. *successfully complete the AFSC written RICT exam with a minimum score of 70% and pass the required practical skills.

****Note:** A candidate must complete the course requirement and the written test requirement within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1407 core requirements.*

Rapid Intervention Crew Leader (RICL)

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

- a. be an AFSC certified Fire Officer I, *and*;
- b. be an AFSC certified RICT, or eligible to test for RICT, *and*;
- c. *successfully complete a AFSC approved Rapid Intervention Crew Leader course, *and*;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written exam with a score of 70% or higher and pass the required practical skills.
- e. ****Note:** A candidate must complete the course requirement and the written test requirement within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1407 core requirements.*

Rapid Intervention Crew Instructor (RICI)

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

- a. be an AFSC certified Level I instructor, *and*;
- b. be an AFSC certified RICL, or eligible to test for RICL, *and*;
- c. *successfully complete a AFSC approved RICI course, *and*;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written exam with a score of 70% or higher and pass the required practical skills.
- e. ****Note:** A candidate must complete the course requirement and the written test requirement within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1407 core requirements.*

APPROVED RAPID INTERVENTION CREW TRAINING COURSES

For eligibility to complete Rapid Intervention Crew certification examinations applicants must complete an AFSC approved training course. Alaska accredited fire departments or organizations with an approved curriculum can conduct training locally; or through other courses sponsored or approved by the AFSC. To conduct an AFSC approved Rapid Intervention Crew course that will result in AFSC certification, the department/organization must contact the AFSC in advance of the course start. A RIC course must have AFSC approval before the course begins or participants **will not** be eligible to complete an AFSC certification examination.

The purpose of the AFSC RIC course approval is to ensure the curriculum satisfies the knowledge and practical skill requirements of NFPA 1407. Completion of the [RIC Final Examination Packet](#) and [Rapid Intervention Crew Training Record](#) is required for the final examination eligibility to ensure the candidate has met the requisite skill requirements before testing for certification.

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Upon approval to test, an applicant must successfully pass the final examination to receive AFSC RIC certification. A candidate must take A RIC certification examination within 3 years of the completion an accredited/approved course.

RAPID INTERVENTION CREW EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council written test bank questions for Rapid Intervention Crew are validated using a national standard and specific text. The total number of written questions for each level is 50 for RICT/RICL and 25 for RIC. Questions from the test banks are referenced to [NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews](#), 2015 edition. The AFSC generally administers the Rapid Intervention Crew certification examination immediately following an approved RIC course.

For individuals who have met the criteria to test for RIC, but are not able to test with a group, the Training Officer/Training Manager must submit a request for examination to the AFSC office in writing. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#). For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office local staff will proctor written examinations. The AFSC **will not** send examinations directly to the individual taking the exam.

Rapid Intervention Crew Written & Practical Examination References

- a. NFPA 1407, [Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews](#), 2015 Edition
- b. *Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews: Principles and Practice*, Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2015 Edition
- c. Rapid Intervention Crew Skill Sheets

For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher. The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores. Upon successful completion of a specified level, the AFSC will issue the appropriate Rapid Intervention Crew certificate.

CERTIFICATION THROUGH RECIPROCITY

Reciprocity for AFSC Rapid Intervention Crew is available to an individual who has completed his or her certification through an entity accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAC](#)) or the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board ([ProBoard](#)), provided the entity that issued the RIC certificate specified a level of certification listed within this directive. RIC reciprocity candidates must provide a completed [Application for Certification](#) and a copy of their IFSAC or ProBoard certificate to the AFSC.

For eligibility to receive RIC reciprocity applicants must:

- a. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety; *and*
- b. must complete an [Application for Certification](#); *and*
- c. have a minimum of Hazardous Materials Operations certification (*proof of AFSC certification required*); *and*
- d. have a minimum of Firefighter I certification (*proof of AFSC certification required*) provide a copy of a valid RIC certificate with and IFSAC or ProBoard seal; *and*
- e. meet the eligibility requirement listed within the RIC directive

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EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

To initiate the challenge process, an individual must have documentation of completion of the applicable RIC training program. The AFSC will only accept RIC challenge applicants if he or she is affiliated with an Alaska fire department or organization with an accredited fire training program for the level of the challenge request. All challenge requests must be coordinated through an accredited fire department/organization. The fire department Training Program Manager/Training Officer has the responsibility to verify the applicant meets the requirements for testing and must complete and sign the applicable items on the RIC Training Record before the applicant is eligible to complete an approved AFSC certification exam.

The following guidelines apply to all equivalency challenge requests:

- a. A candidate must complete an [Application for Certification](#) and attach supporting documentation; *and*
- b. the candidate must be a member of a Fire Department registered in Alaska and must have a letter of support from the Fire Chief/Designated Supervisor; *and*
- c. the candidate must provide documentation of training that complies with each component of the appropriate NFPA Standard for desired level of certification (completion must be within the last 3 years); *and*
- d. the candidate must successfully pass the AFSC's written exam with a minimum score of 70% for the requested level of certification and successfully complete a practical skills exam, where applicable; *and*
- e. the candidate must meet the general requirements for certification as outlined in the appropriate certification directive.

Applicants with an endorsement from his or her Training Program Manager/Training Officer may complete an approved RIC examination locally, but the AFSC will not schedule an examination for a single individual. If no test opportunity is possible locally, applicants can contact the AFSC office for information on other certification test sites.

The AFSC **does not** permit a candidate to attend a final exam at an alternate test site without the explicit pre-approval of the AFSC office *and* the department/organization that is authorized for the exam. To test at a site other than his or her fire department, the challenge candidate must:

1. have permission from the agency that is scheduled to test
2. provide evidence of AFSC written approval to test
3. provide a photocopy of official ID
4. provide a completed training record for the level of the examination signed off by the candidate's Training Program Manager/Training Officer
5. have the necessary personal protective equipment, tools, or material to complete the practical exam components

CERTIFICATION TIME LINES

Certificates issued under the AFSC Rapid Intervention Crew directive have no expiration date.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is not required for certification as a Rapid Intervention Crew.

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PREVIOUS ALASKA RAPID INTERVENTION CREW CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes previously issued State of Alaska Rapid Intervention Crew/Technician (RIC/RIT) certifications. RIT certification examinations conducted before December of 2015 did not correlate to national or locally specified criteria and grandfather options for IFSAC seals are not possible.